

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 27. 1708.

I Have enter'd upon the Enquiry after Emiffaries and secret Spies employ'd among us, with the greater plainness, because we too sensibly find the inconvenience of those Betrayers of their Country at this Time, and perhaps more now than ever; I am now in pursuit of this Enquiry, who they are that employ such People as these? And this leads me of course a little back into the History of this Vile Practice in the World.

This Custom of using Tools to amuse and delude the People, is too old to descend into its Original; the first Instance I have met with of it, is in the Scripture, and with too much Success they did it; when the Chief Priests gave Bribes to the Soldiers, to lay of Our Saviour, *That his Disciples came in the Night and stole him away.* This Imposture wanted Emiffaries to spread it, that

the ignorant People might be imposed upon, and that it was propagated very diligently by the Artifice of the Party, who opposed the Miraculous Blessing of a Redeemer, is evident, in that the Chief Priests and Elders did it upon serious Debate, *after they had taken Council,* says the Text, *Mat. 28. 12. And what did the Tools do?* The Case is plain, *v. 15. So they took the Money, and did as they were Taught.* There's the true Character of an Under-Spurleather, *as they call them now; a Tool, an Emiffary—* To take Money, to spread a forg'd Story about the World, to abuse and impose upon the People, and what was the Consequence? The Sham had its desir'd Effect, for the People were imposed upon; the Devils Work was done, *v. 15. This saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this Day.* Her:

Here is the Case exactly stated, if the Coat fits any Man let him wear it ; they take the Money, and do as they are Taught— And these Inferences I shall draw from this part of it ; 1. Hir'd Tools will say as they are taught. 2. Tools are hir'd for Lyes, never for Truth. 3. Truth always tells its own Tale, and needs no body to misrepresent it, no Glosses to explain it, no different Forms or Dresses to appear in.

From this eminent Instance I could descend to History, and give you Instances in the Practice of Politicians, and particularly Cardinal Richlieu was the most famous for employing Engines among the People to amuse them, and prepare them for the Ruine of their Country, which he laid the Foundation of ; it would be too long to enter into the Particulars, but they are to be seen at large in the History of his Life ; the Memoirs of *Rocheport*, and other Authors of those Times.

To come to our own Times ; we have had a Variety of this sort of People in *England*, from the Spies and Informers of the Star-Chamber Tyranny, in King *Charles* the First's Time, to the Booted Apostles in King *James's* ; the first Attempt that I think was made by the Pen and Ink, was by *Sibthorp* and *Manwaring* in the late Times, and the next by the *Observer*, in King *Charles* the Second's Time, written by *L'Estrange*.

Now let us trace these People down to their Beginning, and thro' all their Practices, and you will find they were ever on the Devils Side ; the very Nature of the thing signifies it ; *Richlieu's* Emissaries were employ'd to introduce Tyranny, to raise in the People exalted Notions of their King, and qualify them to be rid upon by his Arbitrary Tyrannical Measures ; to abuse and misrepresent the *Hugonots* on one Hand, that their Reduction might be approv'd by the People ; and to prepare them and wheedle them on the other hand, to submit to the Mischiefs prepar'd for them.

Sibthorp and *Manwaring* were Tools of both Civil and Ecclesiastick Tyranny, and the Condemning their Books, has left Monuments of their Management to Posterity.

And what were the special Works of the *Observers* in King *Charles's* Time, but to

cry down our Liberties, applaud Tyranny, Debauch the Minds of the People, with fatal, false, and abhor'd Comments upon the Principles of Government and Obedience, to prepare the Nation for the Ruine of their Liberties, and the Overthrow of the Constitution, which it was apparent was design'd to follow.

In King *James* his Reign, his Popish Spies on one hand, and his Booted-Apostles on the other ; what was their employ, but to misrepresent, palliate, and soften his secret Designs, by preparing the ignorant People, to give a Tacit Assent to the dispensing with our Laws, one of the worst sorts of Tyranny ?

And now, Gentlemen, let us make some Enquiries ; I have given you some Instances of Tools employ'd, to carry on Tyranny and State-Policy, to carry on wicked Designs, spread Falshoods, and delude the People— Pray, let any Man give me an Account of Emissaries and Tools hired and employ'd, to open their Eyes to set them to right, to restore them to their Wits, and reconcile them to their own Interest ; where have been King *William's* Under-Spurleathers, or Queen *Ann's* Booted-Apostles ? Princes that pursue Just Government, and Rule by Laws, scorn to descend to such base Methods, and their Reigns have been always free from the Artifice of such Measures ; Ministers of State, who pursue the true Interest and Design of such Princes, never flie to such Shifts.

It would reflect upon your Honesty and Understanding too, who are the People Govern'd, to say the Government should be at Charges to bring you to your Senses, and to open your Eyes to your own Interest— While the end is your Liberty, your National Prosperity, and defending you against Deluders, you ought to embrace the Relief of such Instruction, if it be offer'd, let who will be the Messengers.

Let a Mock Whig rail, and bestow his Filth about Persons employ'd among you by the present Government ; let him tell you what they are employ'd to do— What does the Government or Ministry now seek of you ? Do they protect any Traytors, encourage any Frauds, or defend Mismanagements ? Why do you not produce the Persons, and lay it before the Parliament

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liament, who will not fail to do you Justice? But if the Government presses you to Peace and Union, general Charity, Neighbourhood and Courtesie; if the Government invites you to lay aside your Animosities and Divisions, and join heartily in promoting the General Good; if the Government leaves every Offender to the Law, and you have open Unbias'd Justice; if the Government uses all means possible, to make you the Instruments of your own Felicity, by opening your Eyes to the Mischiefs of immoderate Councils; it would be a shame to you, and I wonder you do not take it for a Satyr, that any Man should tell you, the Government wants Tools to work you up to this; and let that Writer in Masquerade, who makes himself the *Intestinum Rectum* of Slander, tell you but who are these People, and who their Employers, and what the Work they are employ'd in, and then you will soon see by another Light.

Beware then of False Prophets, (for such of more sorts than one, are risen up among you) who putting on the Mask of just Observers, discover themselves to be Agents of High-Flying Principles — Let the Authors tell you their Names, and let us see who they are, that espousing a Whig-Cause, can Slander and abuse King William, and censure a Satyr upon Tories and Tacklers, calling them the best of our Nobility and Gentry; either at last, you will find these People Tools and Agents of a High-Flying Interest, or they certainly Act by the Fury of their private Passions, against both their Party and their Principles; let them but tell us their Names, and you will soon make a Judgment. Why should any Man fight in the Dark, and leave himself room to avoid in Person, what they impose upon the World in Print, especially when no Danger of Law, or Prosecution of Justice is in the Case.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have employ'd this part of the *Review* for some time, upon the present State of our Trade, and as the Subject is too large to enter upon a full Discussion of it, in so small a Paper as this, so I shall single out some Heads of Trade to speak to in the course of the *Review*, which seem most necessary at this time, and which most concern the present Circumstances of our General Commerce.

I have laid down as some General Maxims in my last, (1.) That it is our great Interest to study, and find out such Ways and Methods for the carrying on our Trade, as may keep up the Life and Being of our Manufactures, under the present Discouragements of the War, that our People may feel as little of the Calamity as possible.

(2.) That the keeping up and right managing our Manufactures at Home, is the only Support of our Nation, and the Life of our General Commerce.

I instance, First, in the Prohibition made by a former Act of Parliament, of the

Bone-Lace from *Flanders*, with prompting the *Flemings* to a kind of Reprizal, by Prohibiting all our Woolen-Manufactures, struck the greatest Blow to our own Trade that it has felt during this whole War — And that I may be as concise in my Observation as possible; I refer the inquisitive to the time, when after the Battle of *Ramellies*, the open Towns of *Flanders* fell into our Possession, I mean the Confederates, and in an Act of Parliament, the House who were sensible of the former Error, made a Provisional Clause for the opening the Trade to *Flanders* again.

Let the Custom-House Books show, or let the Clothiers of *Leeds*, *Wakefield*, and *Hallifax*, as well as other Manufacturers in the West Part of *England* speak, what a Run, for at least a whole Year, did the restoring that Trade make among our Manufacturers, in so much, that about *August* and *September*, 1706. the price of *Yorkshire* Cloths, *Kerseys*, &c. in that Part, advanced above 16 per Cent. all the Markets could not supply the